

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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 9 P. M.

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TO: Secretary of State

NO: 2026, NOVEMBER 29, 8 P. M.

SOVIET COMMENTS ON CUBA

FRIENDLY LEBANESE CORRESPONDENT TOLD USUN IN CONFIDENCE
COMMENTS MADE TO HIM BY RADIO MOSCOW CORRESPONDENT AT UN:

1. SOVIET CORRESPONDENTS MET WITH MIKOYAN LAST NIGHT WHO SAID WITHOUT DETAILS "HE HAD TOUGH TIME IN CUBA".
2. SOVIETS FULLY AWARE THEY LOST FACE AMONG NEUTRALS AND OWN ALLIES BY WITHDRAWAL BUT ACHIEVED MAIN OBJECTIVE: MAINTAINING SOCIALIST REGIME IN WESTERN HEMISPHERE.
3. LOSS IN PRESTIGE WILL BE MADE UP BY SUCCESSES ELSEWHERE; KHRUSHCHEV POLICY "ONE STEP BACKWARD, TWO STEPS FORWARD".
4. SITUATION VERY TENSE IN SOVIET GOVERNMENT CIRCLES BETWEEN OCTOBER 22 AND 27. SOVIETS THOUGHT US WOULD INVADE CUBA, THEY WOULD COUNTER WITH ARMS, RESULTING IN WAR WHICH KHRUSHCHEV WANTS AVOID AT ALL COSTS.

STEVENSON

MCG/3

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